Approval of RFP#130108 with Technology for Education (TFE) for 2013 E-Rate Network Equipment
February 26, 2013

BOARD GOAL:

VI b. Growth & Change ….Create and continuously modify strategies to mitigate increasing stresses on Children, our schools and our community. **VI e. Growth & Change** ….Demonstrate effective and efficient management of district resources.

SUMMARY:

- This item requests approval of RFP #130108 with Technology for Education (TFE) for Priority 2 E-Rate eligible internal connections at our 8 E-Rate eligible 90% campuses: Gonzalez School for Young Children, Borman Elementary, Lee Elementary, Rivera Elementary, Ginnings Elementary, Hodge Elementary, Ann Windle School for Young Children, Lester Davis and our 7 E-Rate eligible 80% campuses: Calhoun MS, Strickland MS, Evers Elementary, Fred Moore HS, Newton Rayzor Elementary, WS Ryan Elementary and McMath MS. This means if DISD is funded by the federal E-Rate program, DISD will be responsible for only 10% or 20% of the total cost of the network equipment for these campuses.

The 2013 RFP #130108 was divided into 4 packages. Package 1 is the five 90% schools from last year's submission for E-Rate funding. Package 2 is three additional schools that qualify for 90% funding which makes a total of 8 DISD schools applying for 90% funding. Package 3 is the 7 schools in the 80% E-Rate funding. Package 4 is non-E-Rate related but requests a total district wireless infrastructure design and costs. This will be discussed at the March 19 Board meeting.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

- On March 13, 2012 this Board passed the 2012 E-Rate submission on most of the above schools. We have not yet been notified if the 2012 internal connections submission has been funded.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Denton ISD receives E-Rate funding every year for our telecommunications costs for the entire district. E-Rate discounts are scaled by our Free and Reduced counts. The combined district average is a 60% discount. If we apply for individual discounts per campus, our discounts are larger for our greater needs campuses as noted in the summary. The Priority 1 tier of E-Rate discounts fund approximately 60% of our district Verizon phone bills and Internet costs from the LEARN network.   The Priority 2 tier discounts funds internal connections. We never apply as a whole district for the Priority 2 tier because E-Rate always runs out of money before getting to the 60% levels. We have chosen to apply by the individual campuses listed above for network equipment and cabling. The schools listed above individually have higher numbers of free and reduced and receive a higher discount on equipment costs. There are 90% discount schools and 80% discount schools. This means if E-Rate selects one of these schools then the district would pay the 10% or 20% of the costs. This is the best way to infuse new equipment into our schools without depending on bonds to fund and saves the District a considerable amount of money.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

 - None

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

- The RFQ totals for the 90% and 80% schools equipment and cabling, DISD share, is $838,920.68, which includes equipment, engineering, project management and installation. DISD will be responsible for the 10% or $459,577.98 for the 90% schools. DISD will be responsible for the 20% or $379,342.70 for the 80% schools. As stated above, we are not obligated to take the funding if we receive a funding notification.

 BENEFIT OF ACTION:

- Passage of this contract will insure that these campuses will receive new Cisco network equipment and cabling at little cost to the District if funded by the E-Rate program.

PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:

- None

PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

- None

ALTERNATIVES:

- No alternative actions are proposed …

OTHER COMMENTS:

- None

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends the approval of this contract and expenditures of $838,920.68 if E-Rate awards all these requests.

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

- Ernie Stripling, Technology Information Officer

ATTACHMENT:

- Proposal from Technology for Education (TFE) for both the 80% and 90% campuses
- District RFP
- Costs breakdown

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: _____

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____